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AN
ACCURATE STATEMENT,
OF

THE TRIAL

OF

James Price and Thomas Brown,

BEFORE

THE HON. FRANCIS BURTON, ESQ.

At the ASSIZES holden for the COUNTY PALATINE of
CHESTER, the 6th Day of APRIL, 1796.

Charged on Oath, with a strong Suspicion of hav-
ing on TUESDAY the 19th of JANUARY last past,
between the Hours of Eight and Nine in the After-
noon of the same Day, on the King's Highway, in
the Parish of *Thorton-in-the-Moors*, in the County of
Chester, feloniously assaulted PETER YOXALL,
who was carrying on Horseback, HIS MAJESTY'S
MAIL, from *Warrington* in the County of *Lancaster*,
to the City of *Chester*, and taking from his Person,
the said MAIL BAG, with the LETTERS and
other ARTICLES contained therein.

Entered at Stationers-Hall.

CHESTER:

PRINTED BY E. MONK.

1796.

10.17

ACCURATE STATEMENT

THE TRIAL

THE TRIAL OF THE BIRMINGHAM BOY

ERRATA.

In page 23, line 4, of the trial, after the word magistrates,
read, at Birmingham, and in line 12, *read*, they, instead
of, the.

NOV 30 1914

PRINTED BY H. MORGAN

THE TRIAL, &c.

COUNSELLORS FOR THE CROWN.

MR. LEYCESTER, ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

MR. TOPPING,

MR. WILLIAMS,

MR. WIGLEY.

FOR THE PRISONERS.

MR. MANLEY.

FIRST WITNESS.

WILLIAM BLUNDELL, a clerk in the post-office, at Warrington, examined. Deposes, that the post-boy was dispatched from Warrington, twenty minutes past six of the clock, in the afternoon of the 19th day of January last past, with the mail containing two bags in a portmanteau.

Cross-examined by Mr. Manley.—*Did you see the mail put in?*—I did.

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SECOND.

SECOND WITNESS.

PETER YOXALL, the post-boy, examined. Deposes, that he is aged fifteen years, and that on the evening of the 19th day of January last past, he received the Manchester and Warrington bags, and put them into the mail, and then proceeded to Frodsham. On his arrival there, he received another bag, which he put into the pouch by his side; and that about three-quarters of a mile of the Chester side of Dunham-on-the-Hill, it being a moonlight-night, he observed two men riding before him on horseback; when he came up between them, they turned their horse's heads on him and seized his, and said, *Stop, or I'll blow your brains out*, the largest man on the right hand side, said so; he rode a little further, when a smallish kind of a bright pistol was presented by the larger man; a gate was then opened, and they led his horse up the field; they had crapes on; the horses appeared bay; the horse on which the lesser man rode appeared to be cropped; the men had light-coloured top-coats on, and round hats; observed no other part of their dress; they took him off his horse, and tied all the three horses to a tree; they tied his hands behind him, and put his hat over his face; then set his back towards them; they fastened his legs in a port-manteau

manteau before they left him ; he could not perfectly hear what they were doing ; when the coat-strap was buckled round his legs it hurt him, and he called out his leg was sore ; when he complained, the man who was buckling his legs did not seem to understand him. One of them seemed to speak Irish. He did not believe him to be an Irishman, having been used to Irishmen. They were half an hour rummaging the bags ; they left him and said he would take no harm staying there till morning ; they said the country was poor ; not enough to carry them to Dublin ; that if he moved, there were two men watching him, who would cut off his arm ; he got loose in an hour and a half ; he saw the letters scattered over the field ; he went to the turnpike, and called the man ; he went to the constable of Mickle-Trafford, by name Gorst ; he observed nothing but the leather portmanteau his feet were tied in ; he went next morning with the constable and found the letters all over the field, and found the portmanteau and bags again.

William Blundell called again, and cross-examined.—Identifies the mail bags and portmanteau.

Peter Yoxall called again, and cross-examin-

ed.—Who says, he described the men to the turnpike-man and to the constable, but did not tell the constable the horse was cropped; it appeared to him to be cropped. A day or two after he told the horse was cropped; he saw Parry of the Nag's-head, the next day, he was at the post-office; he saw no person when they tied his legs; he got to the post-office, at Chester, at half past twelve o'clock. The advertisement was issued by day-light.

THIRD WITNESS.

STEPHEN PALIN, postmaster at Chester, examined. Deposes, that the workmen sat up all night to complete the advertisement. He examined the post-boy as well as he could, for an hour; he did not say the horse was cropped.

Cross-examined.—*Did you ask him whether the horse was cropped?*—I did not.

FOURTH WITNESS.

JOHN GORST, constable of Mickle-Traf-ford, examined. Deposes, that he came down to the turnpike at eleven o'clock on the 19th of January. That the next morning, he went to the field with Peter Yoxall, and found a quantity of letters; the bags and letters were all scattered about, there was a thick rope fastened

tened to a tree, and a saddle turned upside down close to it.

Stephen Palin again called, said, he did not know of any thing being lost out of the Frodsham bag; an accepted bill for payment of one hundred and fifty pounds was in the mail, of which advice was directly sent to the parties concerned.

FIFTH WITNESS.

RICHARD UNITE, constable, of Manchester, examined. Deposes, that on Thursday the fourteenth day, and on Saturday the sixteenth day of January last past, and several days besides, he saw the prisoners together once, and near together another time; they appeared to be well acquainted with each other; he has seen them for several years past at fairs and races together, and watched their actions at the last dirt fair at Manchester, in November last.

SIXTH WITNESS.

CORNELIUS LEIGH, a printer, from Manchester, examined. Deposes, that at five o'clock on Sunday morning the seventeenth day of January last past, he saw the prisoner (Price) in Salford, near Manchester, that he enquired

enquired for a public-house that was open, saying he had been up all night.

SEVENTH WITNESS.

PAUL GREENWOOD, landlord of the inn at Warrington-bridge, examined. Deposes, that he keeps the afore-mentioned inn, and knows Price; that he saw him there eight or ten days before the mail robbery, but did not see his face on the day of the robbery.

EIGHTH WITNESS.

MARY FOSTER, servant to Paul Greenwood, examined. Deposes, that the least man (Price) was at their house at seven o'clock in the morning of the day the mail was robbed; he came on horseback, but she took no notice of the horse.

Cross-examined.—As to the best of her judgment, replied, *I swear to the man.* A person from Warrington, came by accident with Price to their house, for Price asked the gentleman how far he had travelled.

NINTH WITNESS.

PETER BURCHALL, keeper of a toll-bar, examined. Deposes, that he keeps a toll-bar between

between Warrington and Frodsham, distant from Warrington two miles, saw a person pass through, between eight and nine o'clock, on the morning of the day of the robbery, on a brown bay-cropped horse, but should not know him again.

TENTH WITNESS.

ROGER LEWIS, innkeeper, at Daresbury, examined. Deposes, that he keeps the Ring-of-Bells inn, at Daresbury, between Warrington and Frodsham, distant four miles from Warrington, and that the prisoner Brown, came to breakfast at his house, at half past seven o'clock, on the morning of the day of the robbery; that after he had breakfasted, he walked out towards Warrington, and was absent one hour and a quarter; he then returned and paid his shot. His hair was powdered, wore a black coat, with a brown great coat, and thickset pantaloons.

ELEVENTH WITNESS.

THOMAS PARRY, victualler, at Bridge-Trafford, examined. Deposes, that he keeps the Nag's-head public-house, at Bridge-Trafford, between Frodsham and Chester, distant from Frodsham six miles, from Dunham-on-the-Hill two miles, from Chester four miles; that

that he saw both the prisoners at his house, on Tuesday the 19th day of January last past, about half an hour past twelve o'clock at noon of the said day, and they continued there until half an hour past four o'clock of the evening of the said day; that he was in the same room with them a short time; that they loitered about and dined at one o'clock. Their horses were then in his stable; they sent for the smith, S. Nield, to have them shod; they were dressed, Brown in a black coat like what he now has on, but does not recollect his great coat; thinks he had on pantaloons, with long-necked spurs, and a round hat; rode a blood chesnut mare, cut tail.—Price in such a coat he now has on, with a striped waistcoat; had a drab-coloured great coat and round hat; rode a cropped bay horse. He set out for Birmingham the twenty-fifth day of January, and arrived the twenty-sixth; when he again saw them, being at that time in the custody of Tart, a constable, he knew Price immediately, but not Brown, his face being reddened by painting; he went out for a little time, when he returned Tart brought an handkerchief, and shewed it to him, with paint upon it, in the prisoner's presence. Price's horse had a bandage round the fore foot.

Cross-

Cross-examined.—He saw the post-boy at Chester for the first time; he saw him a day or two afterwards, but did not tell him the horse was cropped.

TWELFTH WITNESS.

ELIZABETH PARRY, daughter of Thomas Parry, examined. Deposes, that she saw them come to the house together, and shewed them into the parlour; when Price said, *it is a bad job my horse is lame*, Brown replied, *never mind that, your servant will meet you with a better horse at Wrexham*. Brown then went into the garden, and said to her, *five miles from Chester, my dear?* she answered, *only four*; he then observed to the other, *it was sixteen miles to Wrexham*.

Thomas Parry, again called and asked, *is Tarvin out of the way to Wrexham*.—Answered, *the contrary road*.

THIRTEENTH WITNESS.

SAMUEL NEILD, blacksmith, of Mickle-Trafford, examined. Deposes, that he was sent for to Thomas Parry's house in Bridge-Trafford, where he saw the prisoners; he was asked to shoe the mare all round, and was told, they were to be double-channeled for

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the fore feet. The mare was a bright chestnut, the horse a cropped bay. He took them to his smithy at half an hour past three o'clock in the afternoon. The day following, a gentleman, himself, and Mr. Paul, went to see if there were any tracks; he saw the print of a double-channeled new shoe in three parts of the field at that time, and the most visible marks were in the field next to the highway; the second time he went with the post-boy, there had been some rain, but there were then appearances of an half-shoe near the tree in the second field, and no road through it. In the first field there were prints going and returning. He knew Price when he saw him at Birmingham. The other man had a reddish colour, but when he returned, after Tart, the constable, had rubbed off the colour, he looked as he had done before, and he knew him immediately. *He is the man for whom I made the shoes.*

Cross-examined.—Says, such shoes are sometimes made for hunters; and that there is a road through the first field for the owner to turn into the second field.

FOURTEENTH WITNESS.

JOHN HARRISON, husbandman, of Mickle-Trafford, examined. Deposes, that his mother's

mother's house is situate in Mickle-Trafford, at the cross-roads leading from the Warrington and Chester road to Tarvin, the Tarvin road leaving the Warrington and Chester post-road as aforesaid (*see the map.*) That at half an hour after four o'clock in the evening of the nineteenth day of January last past, he saw the prisoners leave the Warrington road. They enquired the road and distance to Tarvin. They rode towards Tarvin. The tallest, Brown, had on a black coat.

Cross-examined.—He says, they stopped three or four minutes. They spoke to him; that man in the black coat was there, he is marked in the face with pock-marks and pimples. He had not seen them in court until called.

FIFTEENTH WITNESS.

ROBERT BENTLEY, labourer, of Mickle-Trafford, examined. Deposes, that on the evening of the nineteenth day of January last past, at half an hour before five of the clock, he saw two men stop at Mrs. Harrison's; they came down by the barn-door where he was thrashing. They asked him the road to Tarvin. One rode a bay horse

cropped, which had a rag round the off leg before; the other rode a chesnut mare.

Cross-examined.—He says, he had said something to his neighbours about it, that he had seen such men, but cannot say whether he told it that night. He told it the next day, after he heard the mail was robbed. The barn is four roods from Harrison's house. He was sent for last night. Gave no information before.

SIXTEENTH WITNESS.

——— WOOLLEY, wheelwright, of Mickle-Trafford, examined. Deposes, that on the evening of the nineteenth day of January last past, one quarter of an hour before five o'clock, he saw the prisoners going towards Stamford-bridge, in a wet lane which leads between the road from Mickle-Trafford to Tarvin, and from Chester to Tarpoley. He looked at the one in the black coat, he had pantaloons on, and they were a little ribbed. He saw something tied about the fetlock of one of the horses.

Cross-examined.—Says, he was working at a farm-house and stood by the gate. Brown had black hair and no powder, and that he was as sure of that as of any thing else.

SEVENTEENTH

SEVENTEENTH WITNESS.

WILLIAM GILBERT, keeper of a bar at Stamford-bridge, examined. Deposes, that he is toll-taker at the bar above-mentioned, and that on the evening of the nineteenth day of January last past, a few minutes before eight o'clock, two men passed through the gate, not having paid the toll. They came quietly to the gate, and unbolted it themselves; but the gate swinging back, he went to it. They set off full gallop, not towards Tarvin, but into the Warrington road again; distant about three miles from the fields where the robbery was committed. The horses were bay; one was lighter than the other. They had light-coloured top-coats on. Did not see their faces. The roads join half a mile from the place of the robbery.

Cross-examined.—Says, he never was nearer than a rood to them.

EIGHTEENTH WITNESS.

JOHN WHITBY, of Little-Barrow, examined. Deposes, that on the Tuesday evening, when the mail was robbed, at half an hour past nine o'clock, he saw two men riding through Little Barrow, towards Stamford-bridge,

bridge, they were galloping; that road leads to Tarporley and Nantwich.

Cross-examined,—Says, he was standing at the house-door, and that the road passes the front of the house.

NINETEENTH WITNESS.

JAMES FLEET, a publican, in Tarporley, examined. Deposes, that he keeps a public-house there, that in the evening of the nineteenth day of January last past, at ten or half past ten o'clock, two men came on horse-back, and stopped at his house five or six minutes. They had two sixpenny-worths of gin and water. They came from Tarvin, and went towards Nantwich. Tarporley distant from Tarvin five miles. He sat by the door.

Cross-examined.—Says, he made no observation.

TWENTIETH WITNESS.

JOHN WALKER, innkeeper, in Nantwich, examined. Deposes, that he keeps the Griffin inn there, that in the evening of the nineteenth day of January last past, at half an hour after eleven o'clock, he heard horses stop; he went up the entry; the horse's heads were turned round

round to the door. They asked for some wine and water; his wife said, *how fast you have been riding*; he stood at the door all the time with a candle in his hand. Another bowl was brought; one said he should like to have fed his horse; the ostler was out; they asked for some bread and butter, and having eat some of it, one of them paid two shillings and sixpence; they then rode off and took the road to Woore; their stay in the whole, was about fifteen or eighteen minutes. Nantwich distant from Tarporley, ten miles; they had light-coloured riding-coats on; that horse which stood next him, was a light chesnut, or light bay, of the blood kind. The one who rode on that horse was Brown.

Cross-examined.—Replied, made no particular observation.

TWENTY-FIRST WITNESS.

JOSEPH DARLINGTON, innkeeper, at Nantwich, examined. Deposes, that he keeps an inn there, and that two men came to his house the night the mail was robbed, at twelve o'clock; that they had corn for their horses, which were put into the stable; that the men came into the house, and that the prisoners are the men; he saw them coming from Birmingham, and knew them immediately.

Cross-

Cross-examined.—Says, he keeps the Bull's head, and that the mail does not stop there.

TWENTY-SECOND WITNESS.

JOHN ———, mail-coach horse tender, at the Swan inn, at Woore. Deposes, that two men came to the said inn, about three o'clock on the Wednesday morning of the twentieth day of January last past, and that one of the men pushed his horse into the stable where the mail-coach horses were kept; that they wanted to get into the bar of the house; but he told them they could not. He fed the horses with hay, and took the bits of the bridles out of their mouths; the men followed him into the stable, and fell asleep; they stayed there one hour and a half. John Edwards, a post-boy, took the candle and looked at the men, he was going to harness his horses, as he expected the mail-coach about four or five o'clock. One asked him how far it was to Eccleshall, and which road the mail went; they went off, and soon after the coach came.

Cross-examined.—Said, he was a little drowsy.

TWENTY-THIRD WITNESS.

JOHN EDWARDS, the afore-mentioned post-boy, examined. Deposes, that he lives at

at Woore, and that about three o'clock on Wednesday morning of the twentieth day of January last past, he saw two men in the stable ; that he took the candle, and looked at them ; one was lying on his belly on the hay, and drew his hat over his face.

TWENTY-FOURTH WITNESS.

HENRY PULLEYN, innkeeper, at Wolverhampton, examined. Deposes, that he keeps an inn there ; distant from Stafford sixteen miles. That on Wednesday the twentieth day of January last past (being market-day) the two prisoners came in together, at a quarter of an hour before two o'clock in the afternoon, on horseback, and staid until near six o'clock. That the horses had been rode hard, and one of the men ordered a glass of brandy to wash the heels of the horses, when they came in. They had light-drab-coloured coats on, which they pulled off ; one had a black coat on, the other a green mixture ; is not sure whether one had not pantaloons on. The horses were bay, or chesnut, and one was cropped. After dinner they had a room, and dressed. They said, they wanted the ostler to fetch a parcel from the coach-office ; he went, but did not succeed in the first journey, and they were surprised,

prised, as they expected some things by the Manchester coach. The second time he went, he brought a box, and a pair of saddle-bags. They took a post-chaise for Birmingham. After their departure, the maid-servant found a pair of spurs in a private room wherein they changed their cloaths.

Cross-examined.—He said, that not being very busy, he recollected their persons as soon as Tart brought them back; and added, that when he has to attend persons as he did these, he does take notice. They dined at the ordinary.

TWENTY-FIFTH WITNESS.

NATHAN JACKSON, the ostler before-mentioned, examined. Deposes, that he went to the coach-office by his master's orders. That he saw that man in black when brought back from Birmingham. The mare was a chesnut, the horse was bay and cropped, and both appeared to have been much rode. They ordered a chaise to the Hotel in Birmingham.

TWENTY-SIXTH WITNESS.

WILLIAM WHITTAKER, waiter at the Hotel, in Birmingham, examined. Deposes, that on Wednesday the twentieth day of January

ary last past, about eight o'clock in the evening, the prisoners came to the Hotel in a chaise from Wolverhampton, and that Brown slept there; the other did not, as he went out immediately.

Cross-examined.—Said, that Brown seemed very much tired. That he had some mulled wine, and went to bed.

TWENTY-SEVENTH WITNESS.

JOSEPH TART, constable of Aston, near Birmingham, examined. Deposes, that on Friday the 22d day of January last, he apprehended the prisoners at Richard Allen's, who keeps a public house, at Gosta-green, Birmingham; that two other men were in the parlour with them, and cards and money were on the table. He asked Brown his name, and told him, as he answered the description in the advertisement, he must take him into custody. He ordered his son to secure him. He asked Price his name, and after his son had handcuffed Brown with one end of the handcuffs, he said, *I know you, Mr. Binge, and that your real name is Price*; he (Price) said, *I was deceived, that was not his name*. He said, he had seen Price for four years past, and that he knew his parents. He then ordered his son to put

the other part of the handcuffs on him ; and that no resistance was made by the prisoners. When searching Brown, he saw Price put his hand towards his breeches pocket, and called out to his son, *Bill, mind his hand,* which his son accordingly secured. He searched Price's pockets, and found a loaded pistol in one side pocket, and another well loaded in the other ; and one in his coat pocket. The pistols he produced. Peter Yoxall, the post-boy, said, *the pistol is such as was presented to him.* He found a charger on Brown with powder in it. Brown said, *the key of the saddle-bags was in his pocket, but that they were not in Birmingham, having left them at Nottingham ;* but Tart found them in Allen's house, and in them a pair of thickset pantaloons, such as were described in the advertisement. Brown claimed the cloaths in the bags, but he kept the pantaloons, which he produced, with dirt on the knee. That Parry and Neale had some doubts about Brown, he having disguised himself by reddening his face with paint, and had put on a silk handkerchief ; he said Brown should withdraw and be washed, which he accordingly made him do ; that Brown washed and rubbed himself so hard as to draw blood, which he supposes was to keep up the colour in his face ;

face; that he then made him put on a white handkerchief; that then Parry and Nield directly knew him. He then proved the examinations taken before two magistrates, one of which was read over to Brown, who was rather hard of hearing; who said when it had been read over to him, it was true, but refused to sign it. The other examination was read over to Price, who said it was strictly true, but would not sign it.

Mr. Manly objected.—*That the prisoners when the refused to sign the examinations, retracted them,* and cited the case of *The King versus Bennett*, before the Honorable Mr. Justice Wilson, at Worcester assizes, where the prisoner had confessed, but refused to sign such confession.

Mr. Leycester asserted, that the examination did not amount to a confession.

Mr. Justice Burton over-ruled the objection. The case must be mistated in the state of the fact and not in the decision. The statute of P. and Mary, says nothing about signatures by prisoners on confession, but that the magistrate may take the examination and reduce it to writing within two days. In abundant caution, the magistrates may procure the signature;

signature ; that in this case there is no retraction, if there had been, both should be admitted. It is improper to join this or any other in evidence.

Joseph Tart, cross-examined.—Says, that he found 19l. 19s. in cash on them, which he gave back to the prisoners, before the Rev. Peploe Ward, at Chester, when they were committed for trial, but that no bills nor letters were found in their possession.

TWENTY-EIGHTH WITNESS.

RICHARD ALLEN, keeps a public-house, in Gosta Green, Birmingham, examined. Deposes, that he knows Price and Brown ; that they came to his house a little time before they were taken up ; they used to be together, and were well acquainted.

TWENTY-NINTH WITNESS.

JOHN GREEN, lives at Over, in Cheshire, examined. Deposes, that he knows Brown, and has known him for these two years past ; that he was an horse-dealer, and very frequently lodged at his house ; he then went by the name of Thomas Smallman.

EXAMINATIONS

EXAMINATIONS READ.

Thomas Brown, a surgeon, comes from London; says, *he is a stranger to Birmingham, and came thither in a chaise, one stage distant from Birmingham, occasioned by his horse being tired; and that Price is a stranger to him; that he met with Price on the road, between Warrington and Parry's house, on Tuesday the nineteenth day of January last past.*

James Price, having heard Parry's and Neale's evidence read, said *it is true, and that he met Brown by accident.*

Mr. Manley, observed that the advertisement did not mention the cropped horse.

James Price asked Elizabeth Parry, *what colour was his top coat; she declared, Price had a blue great coat on.*

Mr. Leycester asked Elizabeth Parry, whether Price had not one tied behind him on the horse, and what colour it was; she declared he had, and it was a drab.

DEFENCE.

Brown when called upon for his defence declined saying any thing, but left it to his counsellor.

Price

Price declared, *he had been at Manchester, selling hardware, and persisted in his assertion that he never was acquainted with Brown, and had met him accidentally on the 19th of January, between Warrington and Trafford, when they entered into conversation, and finding they were both going to Birmingham, agreed to join company together.—That Elizabeth Parry spoke very true, for that he had a blue top-coat on and not a drab one.—That Unite had forsworn himself, for they had never been together in Manchester.—That he was perfectly innocent of the charge, and knew nothing at all of the robbery of the mail.*

Judge's Summing up to the Jury.

FOR THE PRISONERS.

Their identity is not proved, nor has any property out of the mail been traced to their possession.

AGAINST THE PRISONERS.

The robbery was indisputably committed, and by two men on horseback; these two men were on horseback. The horses were of a bayish colour; their horses were of that colour, neither grey nor black. One of the horses was cropped; one of their horses was cropt. By the marks
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in the field, one of the horses had *double grooved new shoes* on the fore feet: one of these horses was *shod in this particular way*. A *bright short pistol* was held to the post boy: one of these men had a *similar pistol* found on him. One of the mail robbers was *deaf*; one of these men is *deaf*.

OBSERVATIONS ON THESE CIRCUMSTANCES.

It is probable, that the robbery was committed by two men on horseback; and yet not by the two men at the bar. It is probable, one of the horses might be *cropped*; and yet not rode by either of the prisoners. It is probable, a bright small pistol might be produced; and yet not by either of the men at the bar. It is possible, that one of the horses might have been *fresh shod with double-grooved shoes*; and yet not rode by either of the prisoners. It is possible that one of the men might be *deaf*, and yet neither of the men at the bar.

These circumstances taken singly, prove little; but when united in one link are very material. In addition, these men are traced within a few miles from the place where the robbery was committed on that very evening. They had one of their horses shod in the mode mentioned, viz. with *double-grooved shoes*

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that very afternoon. After the time of the robbery, they are regularly traced to Tarporley, Nantwich, Woore, and Wolverhampton, riding at a very *suspicious rate in the night-time*. Their horses were so tired at Wolverhampton, where they arrived about two o'clock at noon on the day after the robbery, a distance of more than sixty miles, that they quitted them, and went on in a post-chaise to Birmingham, *having changed their cloaths*. No reason, whatever, is given for all this hurry or expeditious travelling in the *night-time*. When apprehended, loaded pistols were found on one of them. When examined before a magistrate, *they were entire strangers to each other*, and met accidentally on the Warrington road on the morning of the nineteenth of January; *this is totally false*. Recollect the evidence of Richard Unite, he saw them together once, and near together another time, at Manchester, on January the fourteenth and sixteenth; had known them together frequently at fairs and races, and had watched their suspicious conduct: He saw them together at Dirt fair, in November last, in Manchester. Recollect, the evidence, likewise, of Richard Allen, at whose house in Birmingham they were apprehended; they came to his house a little before they were taken

taken up; they used to be together, and were acquainted. The prisoner, Brown, in his examination, says, *he was a surgeon, and came from London; observe the evidence of John Green; he has known Brown two years, he was an horse dealer, lodged at his house frequently, and went by the name of Thomas Smallman.* This history of themselves, proves the prisoners are bad men; but if they had been doing other bad acts, they would have given the same false account, and therefore it does not necessarily apply to this charge. Though no bills, &c. have been traced, this does not alter the offence, it only diminishes the proof.

Recollect the whole chain of evidence for and against the prisoners at the bar, and if any doubt whatever, arises in your minds, it is your duty to acquit them. At the same time remember, you are upon your oaths, and that you are bound to give a *verdict* strictly according to *your own consciences*; therefore if you are well satisfied of the prisoners' guilt, you are under every sacred tie to exhibit that firmness of mind your country demands from you all, and to find them guilty.

VERDICT—GUILTY.

SENTENCE.

SENTENCE.

ON Saturday, April 9, the unhappy convicts were brought into a very crowded court, when the learned judge, in a most pathetic manner, passed the awful sentence of DEATH upon them. After having observed, that they had experienced a long and an impartial trial, and had been convicted to the general satisfaction of the court, by an upright discerning jury; that the enormity of their crime was so great, that not a ray of hope remained for them; that in this commercial country, the mail was never to be obstructed in its regular course of conveyance of property from one part of the kingdom to the other. That their time in this world was so short, that the most attentive care and consideration of their unhappy situation was requisite; that the only retribution to the injured laws of their country in their power, was a full confession of their guilt, without the most distant idea of mercy being extended to them; but yet he truly hoped, by a sincere repentance, they would receive forgiveness from that Divine Being, who is ever ready to pardon the truly penitent sinner.

EXECUTION.

EXECUTION.

SATURDAY, April 30, was the day appointed for the execution. The unhappy sufferers behaved through the whole of that awful scene, with the strictest propriety, not with the assumed boldness of daring and desperate offenders, but with that sedate firmness, which could only take its rise from a placid submission and resignation to the sentence of the law.

From a short time after their condemnation, their conduct was truly becoming their unhappy situation. They were strictly attentive to the advice given them by the learned judge, to make the best use possible of their short existence on earth, and were truly sensible of the great injuries they had committed against the public at large.

At the fatal tree, they both acknowledged the robbery of the mail, and hoped the spectators would take due warning by their untimely end.

Their bodies were afterwards hung in chains, on Trafford Green, three miles from Chester, near to the spot of robbery.

BROWN.

BROWN, during his confinement, figured a coffin with the representation of a body in it on the wall of his cell, and wrote underneath the following lines:

BEHOLD the corpse within the coffin lies,
 With stretch'd out limbs and closed eyes;
 But ah, poor Brown! no coffin thou shalt have,
 Nor yet a shroud, nor yet a peaceful grave.
 Prisoners all a warning by me take,
 Repent in time, before it be too late;
 Repent in time, leave off your thieving ways,
 Then you shall all see happier days.

At the fatal tree, they both acknowledged
 the robbery of the mail, and hoped the spec-
 tators would take due warning by their misde-

Their bodies were afterwards hung in chains,
 at Stafford Green, three miles from Chester,
 near to the spot of robbery.

THE

THE
INFORMATION AND CONFESSION
OF
JAMES PRICE,

A CONVICT, *now under* SENTENCE of DEATH,
IN THE CASTLE OF CHESTER,

FOR

ROBBING THE WARRINGTON MAIL,

ON JANUARY THE 19TH, 1796.

WHO declares, that he was born at Birmingham, and is by trade a buckle-chape maker. That at the age of fifteen (his father being dead) he got connected with a numerous gang of pickpockets and thieves, and that the following is a true and accurate list of the robberies committed by these depredators, to the best of his remembrance, viz:

1. In December, 1791, Price assisted a man, now at large, in robbing a gentleman's house of a silk cloak and two chintz patches for gowns, near Lane's livery-stables, in Colehill-street, Birmingham; for which
Price's

Price's accomplice was tried at Warwick and acquitted. In this robbery, Price was put through an hole made in the window to open the door.

2. In the Spring of 1792, Price, together with the said man and Joseph Bridges (transported for house-breaking, at Leicester, in 1796) broke into a cheese warehouse, near the cut-side, in Birmingham, and stole nearly 300 weight of cheese.

3. Price and the aforesaid men, about the same time, broke into a shop in Newhall-street, Birmingham, and stole 500 weight of lead; which was sold to a dealer in Snowhill.

4. At Stafford assizes, March 1792, Price was tried for stealing shoes out of a shop in Wolverhampton, with William Hilman, and acquitted (Hilman is gone for a soldier.)

5. In the winter of 1792, Price, together with James Wilson, James Jackson, and Edward Revell (executed at Warwick, in 1794, for robbing the Coach-office at Birmingham of ribbons and various articles) stole a pack containing three or four dozen of silk stockings, out of the gateway of a waggon warehouse, in a lane near Griddle-smith-gate, at Nottingham, and sold them to a man for nine guineas, called Benjamin, a traveller with a pack, at Nottingham.

6. At Nottingham, March assizes, 1793, Price was tried for breaking open the shop of Mr. Dobledee, a draper, in the market-place, together with John Grey, who

who was condemned, but afterwards reprieved for transportation. Price was acquitted.

7. In March, 1793, Price, together with Charles Abercrombie (transported from York, March, 1795, for picking pockets at the races) picked several pockets at Grantham fair, in Lincolnshire.

8. In April 1793, Price, together with William Sudlow, alias James Berry, stole two or three dozen of silk handkerchiefs out of a shop in Sheffield. Sudlow, a native of Stafford, was concerned in the murder of an attorney, near that town, and died going up to Ascot races.

9. In August, 1793, Price, together with Thomas Whittaker (transported from the New Bailey, in Manchester, in 1795, for picking pockets in the market there) and William Wright (now under sentence of death, at Warwick, for a street-robbery, at Birmingham) and James Astley (transported from the New Bailey, in Manchester, for a robbery, in 1794) stole a five guinea bill out of a man's pocket, at Tamworth fair. In August, 1793, Price, with Whittaker, Wright, and Astley, picked several pockets, at Nottingham races.

10. At Worcester assizes, August, 1793, Price was tried for picking pockets at Bromsgrove fair, with David Jones (who was transported) Price was acquitted.

11. In August, 1793, Price, together with John Kelly, an Irishman (tried with Berry, who was condemned at the last Lancaster assize) stole a five guinea bill at Horncastle fair, in Lincolnshire.

12. In September, 1793, Price, together with Kelly & Samuel Jones, stole several purses at Warwick races.

13. In September, 1793, Price, with the same men, picked pockets, at Lichfield races.

14. In September, 1793, Price, with the same men, picked pockets, at Shrewsbury races.

15. In November, 1793, at Ashton-under-Line fair, Price, Joseph Bridge, and two others, now at large, stole a pocket-book with several drafts in it, amongst the rest, a 26l. draft, which was cashed at a shop in King-street, Manchester, by one of the parties, now at large, who bought some silk handkerchiefs and fustians, and forged an endorsement on the bill.

16. In Christmas, 1794, Thomas Whittaker, with two other of Price's accomplices, broke a warehouse, near Shudehill, Manchester, and stole handkerchiefs, to the value of 500l. which they put into a small house, hired for that purpose, in Thomas-street, adjoining a stone-mason's yard; that these men broke open several other warehouses, in Manchester, that winter.

17. In 1794, Price and Samuel Jones picked a man's pocket of nine guineas, at Mold fair, Flintshire, in company with John Kitchen, an utterer of bad money, now in Middlewich house of correction.

18. Price, during the winter of 1794, lived in Manchester, with several accomplices and pick pockets.

19. At Shrewsbury assize, 1794, he was tried for picking the pocket of Mr. Isaac Smith, at Drayton fair,
in

in October, by the name of Thomas Hillman; was permitted to enter into Lord Fielding's regiment; deserted on a furlough, was taken at Newcastle; and sent to Stafford gaol, and then to the party at Lichfield, from whence he deserted. He committed this robbery with William Bellamy, sent for a soldier.

20. At Manchester races, 1794, Price was taken on suspicion of horse-stealing, at the Red-lion, in Salford; was then sent to the New Bailey, under the name of Thomas Wood, and soon after released. That five stolen horses were left at that time at the Red-lion in Salford, by Thomas Smallman, alias Brown, who had brought them thither, accompanied by a *young boy aged about twelve years*, his brother-in-law; as an horse-dealer, in his road to Brandford fair, in Yorkshire. That Brown escaped with one horse from thence; and that Smith, a partner with Brown, was gone forward with four other stolen horses to Bradford. That he had never seen Brown before, excepting once, on July 10, 1791, at Hampton fair, in Staffordshire, selling goods, as an hawker of hardware, handkerchiefs, &c. That Price saw Smallman again at Oakham fair, about Christmas, 1794, selling horses, where Price and Samuel Jones (who was sent to Hull, on board a man of war, from Lincoln races, 1795) were picking pockets. He met Smallman again at Birmingham, at Christmas, 1795. That Smallman declared he had a house at Royston, in Hertfordshire; kept two stablemen, together with his brother-in-law, Hewit or Jones, who stole many horses out of Cheshire, and brought them upwards towards Royston to him.

21. That Price, together with William Jones, alias

Abbot, was picking pockets at Preston fair, on the great Saturday in January 1795, and stole a purse containing seven guineas and an half. That the said Wm. Jones broke out of the Northgate gaol, in Chester, when under sentence of transportation, for picking a man's pocket of a sample of barley; and in March, 1795, was committed to Wakefield house of correction for one year, for robbing a cart, at Bradford market.

22. In March, 1795, Price stole a man's pocket-book, at Bury fair, in Lancashire, containing a bank bill for 25l. and a 30l. draft on Jones's bank, in Manchester, with Samuel Jones and Bennet or Smith (transported at the assize, at Leicester, 1796, for breaking open a house, in the day time) and Robert Johnson. That Robert Johnson and Samuel Jones were tried for it at Lancaster, and acquitted.

23. At Hereford assize, August 6th, 1795, he was tried by name of Thomas Wood, for picking pockets at Wigmore fair, and acquitted.

24. That Smallman and Hewit robbed a quaker coming from Weyhill fair, the last year, of 170l. That Smallman was taken at the Bank, offering the bills for payment, by name of Thomas Small. That an alibi, by means of one Whiley, of St. John's-street, Smithfield, was procured for him, stating, that he was at that time selling horses in Smithfield, and received the notes in payment for them.

25. That Smallman and his brother-in-law, Hewit, riding on horses, stolen from near London, stopped a jobber coming from Rotherham fair, near to Newark, the last

last year, just before Christmas, Hewit pulled him off his horse, broke his arm with a bludgeon, and cut his face with a pistol; that they attempted to cut off part of his coat, to get his pocket-book, and clapped a pistol to his breast, but some persons coming in sight, they rode off without their booty. That this attempt was about three or four o'clock in the afternoon. That the jobber was seen by them selling a number of beasts at the fair.

26. That Hewit, alias Smith, alias Jones, a native of Knutsford, in Cheshire, was executed the last assize at Lancaster, for horse-stealing.

27. That at Dirt fair, Manchester, in November, 1795, Price, in company with James Berry (executed this assize at Lancaster) picked a man's pocket of a draft for 144l. 5s. which Berry attempted to negotiate at a silversmith's shop in Liverpool, (a quaker); that Berry was stopped on suspicion. That Price being on the watch, set off in a coach for Warrington. That being suspicious of an intention to detain him, he leaped out of the coach, having opened the door, and made across the country, to the Duke's boat, going on the canal towards Manchester.

28. That Price, Smallman, Henry Thompson, alias Ruggins, and two others of his accomplices, broke a shop open by means of picklock keys, in Cherry-street, Birmingham, early in January last, and stole a quantity of waistcoat pieces and other articles, value at least 80l. and 10l. in cash, and four silk handkerchiefs (one of which was left in the field, on January 18, near Manchester, where the chesnut mare was stolen from.)

That

That the property was divided at Maria Clappington's (transported this assize at Warwick, for 14 years, for that offence) in the street behind Coleshill-street, Birmingham. That Smallman took his share towards Dudley; that Ruggins was detected with his part of the goods (and transported from Warwick this assize) that Price disposed of his booty to a man in Edgebaston-street, Birmingham.

29. That Brown passed some forged bills, at a fair in Leicestershire, in 1793, for which a gentleman who received them from him was apprehended in London.

30. That Brown was very intimate with Allen and Knock (executed some years since at Chester) and was with Knock at the Chester races, when he was apprehended.

31. That Brown was intimate with Smith hanged for forgery at Bristol assizes, in 1795.

32. That Brown swopped the horse stolen from near London, which he rode when he and Hewit stopped the jobber, near Newark, for a little poney, near Birmingham, which Price bought for six guineas from Brown.

33. That Brown frequented the house of Mr. Alcock, in Moore-street, Birmingham.

34. That Brown and Price agreed to go from Birmingham to the last Preston fair, on the great Saturday in January, 1796, and to rob the Warrington mail, and the Birmingham mail (if the Warrington mail had

had little value in it) on their return from thence; and set off accordingly. That Price rode the said poney to Newcastle, where it fell lame. That he hired another horse from the Crown inn there, returned the horse hired from Manchester to Newcastle, by one Taff, an horse-dealer, who took the poney from Newcastle to Birmingham. That Brown rode an iron grey mare, belonging to Worley Birch, Esq. fired on one leg, six years old, about fourteen hands high, which he stole for that purpose, about five miles from Birmingham, and five miles from Walsall, and sold it at the Bear inn, in Manchester, facing the Infirmary, to the landlord, for eight guineas, on their return from Preston fair.

35. That Price, at the said fair at Preston, stole a pocket-book, containing a five guinea bill, and a purse, with three guineas and some silver in it.

36. That Price then left Preston fair, and was joined by Brown again at Bolton, in Lancashire, with a stolen silver cup, which was sent in a box from Manchester, directed to Whiley, in St. John-street, Smithfield. That Brown and Price sent a box and a pair of saddle-bags, containing clothes, by the coach, from Manchester to Wolverhampton, to be left till called for.

37. That Brown and Price stop at the Bear inn aforesaid, in Manchester, about a week. That on Monday, Jan. 18, they looked out for horses for the purpose of robbing the Warrington mail with the next evening. That they took their bridles and saddles with them to a field near Manchester, where they caught two horses, one
of

of them a chesnut mare, which Brown rode, and another without shoes, which was turned out again on that account. That two silk handkerchiefs were left by them in the field, from whence the mare was stolen; one was tied round the saddle and girths, to hinder the stirrups making a noise, and some corn was in the other. Price's saddle was covered with his top-coat, and Brown's saddle with a bag; Brown's was a little cross-barred silk handkerchief: Price's matched the one given to Unite, and was stolen in Cherry-street, Birmingham, in January last; that Price left his saddle and bridle in the ditch, and went and purchased a cropt bay horse, for 8l. 8s. from Mr. Edward Swan, a corn-factor, near the Cross, in Manchester, and led it (to the place where his saddle and bridle were left,) in an old halter, which he put into his pocket after having cut the noose off, for the purpose of tying the post-boy's arms. That Brown put a piece of a thin cord for the same use into his pocket, at the Bear-ian, where he corded the box with the cup in it. That Brown slept on the 18th, about ten miles from Manchester, on the Warrington road, where he got the chesnut mare shod; The sign Price thinks was the Crown. That Price came about ten o'clock, and slept at the same place; that the next morning (the 19th) Brown and Price set off about five o'clock, and rode together to Warrington, where Price stopt at an inn, at the foot of the bridge, and breakfasted, and went to enquire for a letter from Brown's wife, ordered to be left at the Post-office till called for. That Brown went forwards a few miles, for fear of being seen with the chesnut mare, and breakfasted. That Price was obliged to stop some time on account of the letter (the Post-office not being open) which
made

made Brown uneasy, and caused him to set out on foot towards Warrington, from the place where he breakfasted, to meet Price. That as soon as Brown saw him, he returned, for his mare, and overtook him, about a quarter of a mile from Daresbury, on the Frodsham road. That they sometimes rode together, and sometimes separate, to avoid suspicion, till they came to Parry's, at Trafford. That they fixed on the spot where they were to stop the boy on the road that morning. That the evidence at the trial, given by Parry, Eliz. Parry, Nield, the blacksmith, &c. in proof of their pretending to go to Wrexham, is true; that when they left Parry's house, they went to Tarvin, and drank coffee, at a house on the left-hand side; that the stables were up the yard, on the right-hand side; that they remained there till seven o'clock, and then set off to commit the robbery; that he, Price, put on a drab-coloured top-coat, over his blue top-coat, (which had been buckled to the crupper of his horse,) in order to disguise himself; that they went through a lane, called Morley-lane, into the Warrington road, nearer to Parry's house, at Trafford, than the field where the post-boy was robbed. That they opened the gate ready to take the boy and mail to the spot fixed on for opening the letters. That Brown had an handkerchief tied over the bottom of his face, and held a pistol towards the boy when they stopped him. That Price had a piece of an old rug over the bottom of his face, which was cut from an horse-cloth belonging to Parry. That Brown had two pistols in his pocket, and Price had three. That they tied the boy's arms behind his back with a thin cord, taken out of Brown's pocket, and slouched his hat over his face. That they placed him with his back towards

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them,

them, whilst they opened the mail-bags, and tied all the horses to a tree. That when they had examined the letters, they took the bridle, saddle and mail-pillion from the post-horse, and turned him loose, and then tied the boy's handkerchief over his face, and put him on his saddle, turned upside down, close to a tree, and passed the piece of an old halter, brought from Manchester, round the tree, and under the boy's arms. That a coat-strap was buckled under his knees, and round his legs; that his feet were put into the portmanteau. That Brown wished Price to leap over the hedge into Morley-lane, close to the place of the robbery, and said it would save a mile and half riding; but Price refused, not being a good rider. That Price observed to Brown, when they left the boy, that he seemed a knowing jockey, always on the listen, and that he never cried; and that he feared a discovery on that account, that they returned round through Morley-lane to Tarvin, and passed close on the other side of the tree where the boy was tied. That Price, soon after they passed through Tarvin, pulled off his drab-coloured top-coat, and to avoid discovery threw it, together with the piece of an old rug, into a wet ditch, and put an heavy stone to sink it to the bottom. That the ditch was close to an hay-rick, on the right-hand side of the road towards Tarporley (the coat and rug were found on Monday morning, April 18, in the ditch as above described, in the presence of the Revd. Peploe Ward.) That the description given in evidence respecting them at Tarporley, Nantwich, Wolverhampton and Birmingham, was accurate. That Brown went the day after their arrival at Birmingham, viz. January 21, to Thonas's livery-stables. That a man who keeps a five-court, at Birmingham (own brother

ther to the person who lives in Gosta-green, and who for a bribe told Tart the constable, that Brown and Price were at Allen's) fetched the horses from thence, and put them to grass, near Birmingham. That as Price, Brown and Tart were going down a lane to the justices at Aston, the former saw the same man, who secreted the horses, with some hay in his hand, attempting to catch the cropped horse, in a field near the lane. That the property taken out of the mail, was a bill of 150l. which was burnt at Allen's, just before Tart came in, and an 8l. bill over due, which Price attempted to pass without effect, at a shop in Wolverhampton, where he purchased three handkerchiefs. That there were two half guineas in the letters and 1s. 7d $\frac{1}{2}$. taken out of the pouch bag.—That Brown in 1793 and 1794, passed a great number of forged Leicester and Newcastle-upon-Tyne 5 guinea bills. That the purchase used to be 10s. 6d. for a bill. That Brown, when he lived at Over, in Cheshire, in 1794, passed one at a trotting match he had on Delamere forrest, with a butcher. That Brown's real name is Smallman. That he was born near Wolverhampton, two miles from Willnall, two miles from Little London, and is a sawyer by trade; and had been an apprentice to his uncle, at that place. That he married his wife by the latter name, at the old church, Manchester, June 1790. She lived at Knutsford, in Cheshire, and is half sister to Brown's accomplice, Hewit or Jones, hanged this assize at Lancaster. That by help of Morgan, a prisoner, a communication was kept up in writing, between Brown and Price (though confined in separate cells and separate day-rooms.) That Morgan used to convey letters to Price and Brown, by going into their

night-cells in a morning (when the turnkey was taking them down into their day-rooms) and exchanging the the letters left in the pockets of their top-coats for that purpose, in their respective cells. That Morgan's cell adjoined Price's, and that they could talk to each other without difficulty.

April 16, 1796.

This information and confession was taken
before me,

PEPLOE WARD.

THE

**THE
INFORMATION AND CONFESSION
OF
THOMAS BROWN,**

A CONVICT, *now under* SENTENCE of DEATH,

IN THE CASTLE OF CHESTER,

FOR

ROBBING THE WARRINGTON MAIL,

ON JANUARY THE 19TH, 1796.

WHO declares, that his real name is Thomas Smallman, that he was born near Wolverhampton, and is twenty-six years of age; that he was bound apprentice to his uncle as a sawyer and continued with him some years; but that early in life he commenced an hawker of Manchester and Birmingham goods, and sold them by auction out of a caravan, when at Chester fairs, near the Exchange, and travelled through Lancashire and other counties for the same purpose. That he likewise trucked goods for horses, and regularly bought and sold them at fairs for sometime. That in June, 1790, he married his present wife, at the old church in Manchester, by name of Thomas Smallman,

Smallman, who he solemnly protests, has ever given him the best advice possible, with the most earnest intreaties to leave off the practices which have reduced him to this sad state.

That his first deviation from honesty, arose from accidentally meeting with the principal of a large gang of horse-stealers and receivers of stolen horses. That this was about four years ago, and since that time, he and his accomplices, (amongst whom was his brother-in-law Hewitt, alias Jones, a native of Knutsford, in Cheshire, executed at Lancaster this assize, for horse-stealing) have stolen valuable horses to the amount at least of 1000l.

That from Christmas 1793, to May 1794, he and his wife lived at Over, in Cheshire; that during that time, he was stealing horses, and she sold hardware in that neighbourhood. That in 1794 and 1795, he lived at Royston, in Herts, with the greatest credit as an horse-dealer, kept a gig and two stable-men. As a proof of this, the best character possible was easily procured from that town and neighbourhood, in Sept. last for him, when apprehended at the bank of New-man and Druminond, near the Mansion-house, where he was offering the bills for cash, which he and Hewitt had taken from a quaker, returning from Weyhill fair. That he was detained under the name of Thomas Small in the Poultry Compter for sometime; but as the quaker refused swearing to the bills, and as an *alibi* was obtained for him, by means of an accomplice, who procured two men to swear that they saw him receive the bills in question, in payment for horses at Smithfield, the Lord Mayor discharged him out of custody.

That

That it is the constant practice of regular horse-stealers, to settle with the receivers, when and where the depredations are to be committed. That the thief views the horse in the day time, previous to the theft, to observe whether he is in a fit state to travel, is properly shod, and worthy of his notice as to value. That the horse when stolen, is conveyed through bye roads, (which are always well known to the stealer,) to the stables of the receiver, who generally allows about one third of its value to the thief. That in general a pursuit after stolen horses is nugatory; for the horses are mostly lodged in secresy, and in the hands of men of apparent good character. That the only mode to look after stolen horses with effect, is to examine the stables of suspected dealers, and particularly what they stile their sick-stables. That the receivers always enquire from what parts the horses are stolen, to avoid meeting with the owners of them. That when sold, they regularly communicate to the stealers, where they may be met with again; that the receivers of stolen horses frequently with two of the gang, go to the toll-book, on their entrance into a fair, when the receiver, the apparent purchaser, pays down the money, the accomplice receives it as the seller, and the other man is the voucher as to the character and credit of the seller. That this is done to protect the receiver, if the horses should happen to be claimed by their owners. That in the traffic of horses, a large quantity of forged five guinea country bank notes are circulated, as well as a considerable quantity of base coin.

That he had been connected with the principal highwaymen in the environs of London, for the two last winters—

winters—men unknown as common depredators to the public officers of justice, being apparently persons of credit and respectability in their neighbourhoods.

That after he was liberated from the Poultry Compter, being much reduced in cash, he went into the neighbourhood of Birmingham, and there got connected with Price; that he had met Price sometime before by accident, but till then had no connexions with him as an accomplice. That he never picked a pocket himself but had been often present with that sort of depredators. That very few could exceed Price's dexterity as a pick-pocket. That about Christmas last, he and Price having purchased pistols on Snow-hill, Birmingham, went with a full intention of robbing a miller, (known to carry large sums of cash to market,) on the Lickey, near Bromsgrove, about eight o'clock in the morning, but happened not to meet with him. That Price stole a pocket-book, containing four five guinea Stourbridge notes, from a miller in the entrance of a public-house, in Bromsgrove, on the left-hand side of the street towards Worcester. That they took the book down a passage, on the right hand side of the street, about thirty yards nearer Worcester, and divided the five guinea notes; that it contained several notes of hand and other valuable papers; that he put the pocket-book with the papers, (excepting the five guinea bills) into a necessary, and close to a wall. That a water runs at some distance from the wall, and that the pocket-book probably remains there yet. That from thence they went to Droitwich, to plan a robbery of the collector of the salt duties, who used to travel in a two-wheeled chaise, but found on enquiry from the different workmen, that the cash was regularly transmitted
by

by the mail coach to Birmingham. That on their return to Birmingham, they, together with Henry Thompson, alias Ruggins, (transported this assize, at Warwick, for the offence,) and two others now at large, broke the shop in Cherry-street, Birmingham. That they then determined to go to the great fair at Preston, in Lancashire, for the sake of plunder, and on their return to rob the Warrington and Birmingham mails, that they set off accordingly. That Price's account of their mode of travelling to Manchester, from thence to Preston, and their return to Manchester and transactions there (having been read to him,) is accurately true. That Price's account of stealing the chesnut mare from Acres Barn, is true. That Price's description of their transactions from thence to Parry's house, at Trafford, is exact. That the evidence given at the trial, by the post-boy, Parry, Elizabeth Parry, Nield, and the other witnesses from that neighbourhood, is perfectly correct. That they went to Tarvin, and returned to the Warrington road, through Morley-lane, and went back to Tarvin the same way, after the robbery had been committed. That he himself buckled the boy's feet in the mail, and placed him on the inside of the saddle, taken warm from the horse, to secure him from catching cold. That it was Price who told the boy, two men were to wait to cut off his arm if he stirred. That the post-boy offered him half-a-crown out of his own pocket, which he refused. That the witnesses from Tarporley, Nantwich, Woore, Wolverhampton, and the Hotel, in Birmingham, were correct. That the horses were sent to Thomas's stables, late Lane's in Livery-street, Birmingham, and remained there till the day after they were apprehended by Tart, at Ri-

chard Allen's. That a man who keeps a five-court, at Birmingham, came to him in Tart's house, to enquire whether he could be of any service to them. That he told him, a chesnut mare not honestly come by was at the Livery-stables, which had much better be put aside directly, and her shoes taken off and thrown away. That the same man came again to Tart's house the next day, and told him, the mare was turned to grass in that neighbourhood, without shoes, and that all on that point was perfectly safe. That the cropped horse was likewise turned out to grass, by the same man. That he had providentially just put a brace of loaded pistols out of his pockets, in Allen's house, before Tart entered the room, where they were taken; otherwise he certainly should have shot Tart, having resolved never to be apprehended by any one. That they destroyed the two bills taken out of the mail, about an hour before they were in custody. That they were perfectly secure from detection, in their own minds, and were to have gone soon after on some other schemes. Brown further declares, that he had been very intimate with many coiners, and the forgers of the different country bank notes, now in circulation, and had time been permitted him, he could have much benefited the public by his discoveries. That from the day of condemnation to this day, (which is only a week from the execution) his mind had been in great doubt, whether it was not his duty to confess the robbery of the mail, and to keep back every thing respecting his other offences, for fear of involving the innocent wives and children of other depredators in distress. That he particularly requested letters might be directly written to Nottingham, Derby, Burton-on-Trent, Manchester,

ter, and Birmingham, containing the descriptions of the horses he and his accomplices had stolen from those places and their neighbourhoods, during the last two or three years, and that the owners of them might be desired to come over to Chester, without delay, that he might have it in his power to inform them, where their property might be found. That he was very anxious to see all the farmers who had lost horses out of Cheshire, within the last two or three years. That he particularly requested it might be made known to the public, that he had never been guilty of the *least cruelty whatever*, in the depredations committed by him. That he never stopped a carriage when a woman or child was in it. That he never robbed a poor man, but was ready to relieve the distresses of the indigent. That he liberally supported his accomplices (when in custody) that he had experienced very contrary treatment. That his wife and infant child were greatly in want of common necessities; his own property having been withheld from them by a man he had formerly assisted when in difficulties, and to whom he had intrusted a large sum of money and other property, previous to his commitment.

April 23, 1796.

This information and confession was taken
before me,

PEPLOE WARD.

THE END.

E. J. W.
11/30/14

for, and Birmingham, containing the descriptions of
the houses he and his accomplices had stolen from these
places and their neighbourhood, during the last two
of three years; and that the owners of them might be
deceived in coming over to Chester, without delay, that he
might have it in his power to inform them, where their
property might be found. That he was very anxious
to see all the friends who had lost property out of
Chester, within the last two or three years. That
he particularly requested it might be made known to
the public, that he had never been guilty of the least
crime, nor in the descriptions committed by
him. That he never stopped a carriage when a woman
or child was in it. That he never robbed a poor man,
but was ready to relieve the distresses of the indigent.
That he liberally supported his accomplices (when in
custody) that he had experienced very contrary treat-
ment. That his wife and infant child were greatly in
want of common necessities; his own property having
been withheld from them by a man he had formerly
assisted when in difficulties, and to whom he had in-
trusted a large sum of money and other property, pre-
vious to his commitment.

April 23. 1796.

This information and confession was taken
before me,

PEPLOE WARD.

THE END.